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PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

SESSION 1860–61.

First Meeting, Monday, November 12th, 1860.

LORD ASHBURTON, PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*Dr. Thomas Fox; Dr. A. D. White; T. Longridge Gooch; R. Biddulph Martin; J. Septimus Roe; and Thomas Wilson, Esqrs., were presented upon their election.*

ELECTIONS.—*Captain J. Grantham*, R.E.; *Robert Lush*, Q.C.; *James Alfred Lockwood, and Henry Cartwright, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

ACCESSIONS.—The accessions to the Library and Map-rooms since the former meeting were numerous. Among the more important were the following:—United States Reports of Explorations and Surveys; Geology of Iowa, 2 vols.; 2nd and 3rd Reports of the Geological Survey of Kentucky, by D. D. Owen; Marco Polo, edition by W. Marsden; Leake's 'Numismata Hellenica' and 'Coins of Syracuse,' presented by Mrs. Leake; Raleigh's 'History of the World;' Ouseley's 'Travels in the East;' Thornton's 'British India;' Erman's 'Siberia;' Tennent's 'Ceylon;' Bowring's 'Philippine Islands;' Brown's 'Sequel to the N. W. Passage;' Swart's 'Journal van Tasman's Reis,' and map; Black's, Blackie's, the Dispatch, Keith Johnston's, and Van Carnbée's Atlases; sheets of the Government Map of Saxony; of the U.S. Map of Nebraska and Dakota; Maps of Otago, by J. T. Thomson, &c. &c.

ANNOUNCEMENT.—The Chairman said that a letter would be read from Captain Burton, as it would be a matter of pleasure to all present to know that this excellent, bold traveller was in good health. The following characteristic letter from that distinguished traveller was then read:—

Salt Lake City, Deseret, Utah Territory,
Sept. 7, 1860.

MY DEAR SHAW,—You'll see my whereabouts by the envelope. I reached this place about a week ago, and am living in the odour

of sanctity—a pretty strong one it is, too!—prophets, apostles, *et hoc genus omne.* In about another week I expect to start for Carson Valley and San Francisco. The road is full of Indians and other scoundrels, but I've had my hair cropped so short that my scalp is not worth having. I hope to be in San Francisco in October, and in England somewhere in November next. Can you put my whereabouts in some paper or other, and thus save me the bother of writing to all my friends? Mind, I'm travelling for my health, which has suffered in Africa, enjoying the pure air of the prairies, and expecting to return in a state of renovation, and perfectly ready to leave a card upon Muata yan-vo or any other ruffian. Meanwhile, ever yours,

R. F. Burton.

Exhibitions.—Colton's Map of North America and General Atlas, with descriptions, published in the United States; and a portrait of Baron Alexander Humboldt, were exhibited.

The Papers read were—

1. *Extracts from a Letter from* Dr. Shaw, *addressed, by direction of the President, to* Chichester Fortescue, Esq., M.P., *Under-Secretary for the Colonies, Aug.* 24, 1860, *on a Proposed Exploration in North-Western Australia, under* Mr. F. T. Gregory, F.R.G.S.

"Aug. 29th, 1860.

"In April, 1859, an application was made by a party of the settlers, through the Colonial Department of Western Australia, for the assistance of a surveying vessel, then in those waters, to aid them in exploring that portion of the country lying between Shark Bay and the north-west coast, about Nicol Bay.

"A compliance with this request not having been at that time found practicable, it is believed that the plan may, with certain modifications, be at present urged on the attention of the Colonial Office. In furtherance of these views, it is necessary to explain that it is by no means intended to confine the desired exploration to the limited extent of country pointed out in the first place by the settlers, but that a favourable time has arrived for endeavouring to complete the chain of exploration and discovery round Australia, by filling up the unknown space of six or seven hundred miles which yet interpose between the late travels of Mr. A. C. Gregory, from the north, on the Victoria, and those of Mr. F. T. Gregory from the west coast. The advantages to this country, of having stations and ports of refuge along this line of coast, are clear; and as it has been ascertained, by the late expedition of Mr. A. C. Gregory, that cotton